— to step up investment in transmission to overcome mismatch between generation and transmission of power.

— to formulate and launch an action plan for energy conservation.

(e) Several State Governments have taken steps to reform their respective power sector. Orissa, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh have constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs). Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and West Bengal have notified the SERCs. Other States like Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu have constituted the Selection Committees for selecting Chairperson and Members of the SERCs. Andhra Pradesh has enacted the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 which *inter alia* provides for constitution of SERC. Karnataka has drafted the Electricity Reforms Ordinance. Uttar Pradesh has also drafted its Electricity Bill. Both the Karnataka Ordinance and Uttar Pradesh Bill provide for creation of SERCs. Other States have also evinced interest towards reforms in general and setting up of SERCs in particular.

Power Projects of 8000 MWs

2424. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to start work on projects totalling a capacity of about 8,000 MW; and

(b) if so, what are the details of these projects and the cost involved?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) and (b) 68 thermal Projects aggregating to 31704 MW capacity and 62 hydro projects aggregating to 15906 MW capacity are presently under construction in various parts of the country in Central, State and Private sectors. In so far as Ninth Plan is concerned, projects amounting to a capacity of 40425 MW are proposed to be added. The outlay for the 9th Plan as proposed by the Planning Commission is as under:

Central Sector	Rs. 45591.05 crores
State Sector	Rs. 71227.00 crores

Loss of Nathpa Project

2425. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in the Tribune dated the 21st January, 1999 under the heading "Rupees 165 crores loss at Nathpa Project"; if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(b) who is responsible for this lapse and what action Government propose to take to overcome this difficulty?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARMANGALAM): (a) and (b) Nathpa Jhakri Power Corporation is executing the Nathpa Jhakri Power Project (1500 MW) in Himachal Pradesh. The World Bank has already agreed to extend the loan for the execution of the project till March, 2002. There will be no loss due to change in configuration of cement as referred to in the news item published in the Tribune dated 21st June, 1998, since the unit rate of concrete, specified in the Bill of Quantity as per Letter of Award remains the same irrespective of type of cementitious ingredients used for manufacture of concrete. As per project authorities, use of slag cement, instead of flyash, which is not free of cost, is not going to increase the project cost.

The use of flyash was limited to about 1 Km in the Tunnel where hot water having temperature between 40-60 Celsius were encountered. Seepage water samples taken from this reach were found to contain chemicals like sulphides and Chlorides. In pursuance of the studies conducted by the Central Soil and Material Research Station (CSMRS) three options were recommended. Out of the three options one was for the use of Portland Pozzolona Cement with Flyash content of 30%. The Contractor opted to use Portland Pozzolona Cement (PPC) with 30% flyash content. Considering the fact that the use of PPC with flyash requires continuous quality checks both at the thermal plants as well as project site and in case of slag cement tasted manufactured